

NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

HOLDERS OF JCS 1907/A22

A Note by the Secretaries

on

ROTATION OF THE BERLIN AUGMENTATION BATTLE GROUP (U)

1. In consonance with the memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated 13 November 1961, contained in Enclosure B, the message in Enclosure A was dispatched as JCS Message No. 2186, dated 15 November 1961, to USCINCEUR, in lieu of the message in the Annex to JCS 1907/A22.

2. The responsibility for the action required by the third paragraph of the memorandum by the Deputy Secretary of Defense in Enclosure B is assigned to J-3.

F. J. BLOVIN

M. J. INGELIDO

Joint Secretariat

DECLASSIFIED BY OACS

DATE 2 FEB 1984

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
APPROVED 1988 6204

9172 Berlin / 3100 (20 Sept 61)

RG
212

ENCLOSURE A

PRIORITY

FROM: JCS

TO: USCINCEUR

INFO: JACE AJCC FT RITCHIE MD

SECRET

JCS

FROM JCS. Refs:

a. USCINCEUR message ECJCJ 9-93572, DTG 201532Z Sep 61;

b. USCINCEUR msg ECJCJ 9-93887, DTG 251505Z Sep 61.

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff concur in your plan for public 1
release of information and rotation of Seventh Army battle 2
groups into and out of Berlin as outlined in referenced 3
messages, providing not more than three battle groups are in 4
Berlin at one time. 5

2. In light of recent unfortunate stress by press on 6
unusual nature of autobahn movements, as if passage were not 7
normal exercise of our rights, request that policy announce- 8
ment indicate rotation is entirely routine operation for 9
training, morale, etc. reasons. 10

3. In view of the current political situation and to 11
insure the time of rotation and public release does not con- 12
flict with activities being planned by other agencies, re- 13
quest that you report to JCS and DOD a minimum of fifteen 14
days in advance of each rotation, your planned date for 15
commencing the operation and your public information announce- 16
ment to include date for release. SCF 4. 17

Regular JCS Distribution

ECJCJ 9-93572 is DAIN 152679

ECJCJ 9-93887 is DAIN 154491

ENCLOSURE B

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

In reply refer to I-17541/61ct

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Rotation of the Berlin Augmentation Battle Group (U)

The arrangements for the rotation of the Augmentation Battle Group forwarded by JCSM-684-61,* 29 September 1961, are approved in principle.

The correspondence on this subject between the Department of Defense and State is enclosed. You will note that the State Department reply did not specifically address the "policy announcement" proposal; however, the Department of State's agreement with this proposal has been confirmed.

It is requested that, before each rotation takes place, appropriate coordination be effected with the Departments of Defense and State, preferably through the Berlin Task Force.

/s/ ROSWELL GILPATRIC

Deputy

Enclosures:

1. Ltr from Mr. Gilpatric**
to Mr. Rusk dtd 13 Oct 61
(cy)
2. Ltr fr U. Alexis Johnson,***
Deputy Under Secretary
dtd 7 Nov 61 (cy)

* Appendix to JCS 1907/422

** Enclosure to 1st Note to Holders of JCS 1907/422

*** On file in Joint Secretariat

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

13 October 1961

The Honorable
The Secretary of State
The Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Dean:

You will recall that on 20 August 1961 one battle group of Seventh Army was deployed to Berlin as a political/psychological demonstration.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff, upon recommendation of USCINCEUR, desire that the Augmentation Battle Group be rotated at an early date from Seventh Army and thereafter, at intervals of approximately every two or three months, for training and morale reasons.

The Augmentation Battle Group would leave Berlin one day, and the relief Augmentation Battle Group would move to Berlin the next day by administrative motor convoy along Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn with all equipment except tracked vehicles. Troops would be in combat uniform. Should circumstances dictate, the relief Augmentation Battle Group will first be moved. Communication and control of units traversing the Autobahn are provided for in the relief plan. The battle groups would move as units.

To prevent misinterpretation an appropriate press release would be made announcing the rotation policy, followed by low key announcements of the actual rotations when effected. Rotation dates would be reported in advance in case there were a reason at the time not to make any specific transfer.

I should appreciate having your concurrence.

Sincerely,

/s/ ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC